



Partnering with Families to Assess Young Dual Language Learners

LEARN FROM FAMILIES

Families know their children better than anyone else and have valuable information to share with you.

- Set up a meeting to ask family members specific questions about their child’s language story. Learn about the language(s) spoken at home by family members and by the child.
- Ask family members about when their child was first exposed to each language he or she speaks.
- Discuss with family members their hopes and goals for their child’s home and English language development.

SHARE WITH FAMILIES

Sharing information with families helps them become actively involved in their children’s development and learning.

- Discuss your observations with the child’s family, and ask family members if they have examples of similar or different observations.
- Collect and share the child’s work samples with family members. You might share the child’s artwork, writing, or photos of their work.

COLLABORATE WITH FAMILIES

Remember, families are your partners in supporting children’s development and learning.

- Invite a family member to the program to lead a small group activity related to the group’s interests in the child’s home language. Ask family members what they notice about the children’s responses. A family member can help you better understand a dual language learner’s conceptual knowledge about that particular topic.
- During a parent/teacher conference, brainstorm strategies together to observe the child’s language development in English and in the home language(s). Think together about what information to pay attention to, what to record, and how you will exchange observations.

For more ideas and tips about partnering with families in assessment of young dual language learners, watch from 12:04 to 13:26 in the following video resource:

- California Department of Education—[California Early Childhood Educator Competencies: Observation, Screening, Assessment, and Documentation](https://youtu.be/O9-wCY3-MZk?t=12m4s)
<https://youtu.be/O9-wCY3-MZk?t=12m4s>



Partnering with Teachers/Providers to Assess Young Dual Language Learners Taking It Home—Important Strategies for Collaborating in Assessment

As family members, you play an important role in partnering with your child's teacher/provider in gathering information about your child's learning and development, especially if your child is a dual language learner.

Here are some ideas for you to try:

SHARE WITH THE TEACHER/PROVIDER INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S LANGUAGE EXPERIENCES AT HOME.

- Where does your family originally come from? What language(s) do you and other family members speak at home?
- What language(s) does your child hear and use at home?
- When was your child first exposed to each language?
- What are some of your goals for your child's language development?

Discuss the answers to these questions with your child's teacher/provider. Sharing information about your child's language experiences at home helps the teacher/provider understand and support your child's language development in your home language and in English.

COLLABORATE WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER/PROVIDER IN ASSESSMENT.

- Share your observations of your child's use of English and the home language(s) at home or in other settings, such as the playground or a family party.
- Offer to assist your child's teacher/provider in observing your child's use of the home language in the early childhood program.
- Ask the teacher/provider if you can lead a small group activity in your child's home language. You can read a story, teach the children a song, or explore other materials related to the group's current interests. After leading this activity, talk to the teacher/provider about what you observed. What words did the children use in English or in the home language? How much did the children know about the content of the activity?

Collaborating in assessment helps your child's teacher/provider gather accurate information about your child and other dual language learners.

Want More? Read the article, [Talk with Your Child's Teacher](#), for answers to some common concerns that parents have about talking with their child's teacher/provider. The article also offers some ideas about how you can communicate with your child's teacher/provider. Click on the link below to access the article on the ¡Colorín colorado! website:

<http://www.colorincolorado.org/article/talk-your-childs-teacher>